

undergone six rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, and major surgeries. Two days into her 2019 trial, Johnson & Johnson struck a deal to pay her damages.

These women, all Californians, are just a few of the now over 40,000 women who want Johnson & Johnson to help cover the millions of dollars in medical expenses they have racked up in their fight against cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

Before we knew asbestos caused cancer, men who inhaled asbestos dust in mines and in industries like shipbuilding got mesothelioma cancer. For decades, women who didn't work in those jobs, but were diagnosed with mesothelioma, wondered how they could have been exposed.

Like asbestos, talc is a naturally occurring mineral that must be mined. During that process, talc can be contaminated by asbestos.

The 40,000 women all diagnosed with asbestos-related cancers all used Johnson & Johnson baby powder for decades on their children and on themselves. The main ingredient? Talc.

Johnson & Johnson sold its iconic baby powder for 60 years, despite their own internal documents showing that their executives, scientists, doctors, and lawyers all knew that some bottles were laced with asbestos.

In 1976, Johnson & Johnson assured the FDA that no asbestos was "detected in any sample" of talc produced between December 1972 and October 1973. What it didn't say, what it didn't tell the regulator, was that at least three tests by three different labs found asbestos in the powder, in one case at levels reported as "rather high."

Internal documents confirm that Johnson & Johnson willfully misled consumers about the safety of its baby powder.

In a memo to managers, a Johnson & Johnson executive explained that the company's policy of countering negative research about the dangers of talc: "Our current posture with respect to sponsorship of talc safety studies has been to initiate studies only as dictated by confrontation." "The principal advantage for this operating philosophy lies in the fact that we minimize the risk of possible self-generation of scientific data which may be politically or scientifically embarrassing."

In this 2013 markup of a statement for Johnson & Johnson's website, you can see that Johnson & Johnson's legal team advised the company against claiming that: "Our talc-based consumer products have always been asbestos free," with the comment: "We cannot say 'always.'" They recognized that the company's talc could have been contaminated in earlier times.

Johnson & Johnson built its fortune on its baby powder. The company's net worth is \$440 billion, plenty of assets to help the women poisoned by their products.

Three weeks ago, Johnson & Johnson formed a subsidiary called LTL Management. They then dumped all of their asbestos-related liabilities, including those nearly 40,000 lawsuits, into that shell company. Two days later, LTL Management filed for bankruptcy.

This is corporate chicanery, corporate abuse, because Johnson & Johnson only provided that shell company with \$2 billion to cover tens of thousands of asbestos-related lawsuits. Two billion dollars is a big number, but Johnson & Johnson knows the real damages they caused. In 2018, the company was ordered to pay \$4.69 billion to 22 women and their families who used baby powder. They know they did not put enough money into that entity, and they specifically created it to avoid liability.

Corporations abusing our bankruptcy system is not new. Before I came to Congress, I did extensive research on these kinds of predatory, anti-consumer tactics.

Johnson & Johnson is abusing our legal system to shield its assets. This is an injustice and Congress must act.

NLRB CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, what is happening at the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, is so rotten it stinks.

Under Democrat leadership, the NLRB has a history of bias and overreach. President Biden fired the Senate-confirmed general counsel on his first day in office, and now the Biden board is dodging ethics rules.

NLRB Democrats are refusing to follow conflict of interest standards that were weaponized by Democrats during the Trump administration. This is blatant hypocrisy and threatens the integrity of the board.

How can NLRB members Gwynne Wilcox and David Prouty be conscientious arbiters on the very policies they fought against as union employees? And how can we expect board members with close ties to union activists to be unbiased when it comes to big labor cases?

Is there anything NLRB Democrats won't do to advance the interests of big labor at the expense of American workers? It is a shame what it is doing.

□ 1130

MERITS OF TEXAS' HEARTBEAT BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, soon the Supreme Court will rule on the challenge to the Texas abortion law case. The law implements the Nation's toughest restrictions on abortions.

Signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott in May, it prohibits abortion after a heartbeat is detected in the unborn child. This usually occurs around 6 weeks. The law makes exceptions for medical emergencies.

The U.S. Supreme Court is hearing challenges to this bill by pro-abortion groups that want the law overturned. The upcoming ruling will be closely watched as an indicator as to whether the Federal courts will uphold future States' rights to implement pro-life legislation rather than continuing to overreach their Federal court authority.

Unborn babies are human lives. All too often, abortion is referred to as simply a medical procedure, and the sanctity of life is devalued.

At 6 weeks, an unborn child has a heartbeat of approximately 98 beats per minute. Blood vessels begin to form in the circulatory system, and the brain is rapidly developing. This is a human life.

By 10 weeks, an unborn baby has arms and legs, fingers and toes. The baby's pain receptors have been developing for weeks. This is a human life.

By 15 weeks, all the unborn baby's major organs have formed, and the baby has a fully developed heart that pumps 26 quarts of blood per day. The baby can feel pain.

All too often, these facts are overlooked and sidelined and not even addressed in the issue of abortion.

It is my hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will see the merits as to why the State of Texas heartbeat bill was implemented. According to CDC statistics, 619,591 babies were aborted in the United States in 2018. That is 619,591 lives that could have been the next teacher, firefighter, parent, or President of the United States. Upholding the heartbeat bill would save the lives of countless unborn babies, both male and female.

Here in Congress, I continue to be the protector of life and champion for the Hyde amendment in Federal legislation. Taxpayer money should not be used to end the lives of innocent, defenseless babies with beating hearts.

The right to life is our most fundamental, natural, and God-given right. I will continue to fight to oppose pro-abortion plans to force taxpayer funding for abortion. Your taxpayer dollars should never be used to be funding abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in the sanctity of life, and I will continue to fight for the rights of preborn babies.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord Almighty, instruct us and teach us in the right way. You, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent, grant us the knowledge we need to accomplish Your will this day.

As high as the heavens are above the Earth, so are Your ways higher than our ways, Your thoughts higher than our own.

Reach down and bestow on us the gift of Your wisdom. Draw near to us that we may know Your clarity in the things that confound us.

Speak to us above all other voices, that we would hear Your counsel. Let us not boast of our own insight, nor of our strength or riches, but let us boast that we have the freedom to know You. Let us not serve the temptation to hurt, judge, or behave rudely, but let us serve You, the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on the Earth.

Then may You delight in our efforts to reveal that kindness, to exercise Your justice, and to demonstrate Your righteousness here in this place and in the living of our days.

Your word will not return empty, but will accomplish what You desire and achieve the purpose for which You sent it. So send us forth this day to live into that word.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUTHERFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REPLENISH THE RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to add my voice and support to restaurant owners in Buffalo and Western New York standing up today to call on Congress to approve additional restaurant relief.

Congress authorized, through the American Rescue Plan, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, providing \$28.6 billion to help restaurants hit hard by the pandemic. While the program was able to help over 101,000 small business owners, over 63 percent of eligible applicants, more than 177,000 restaurants the Small Business Administration deemed qualified for funding received nothing.

According to the National Restaurant Association, the restaurant industry sales in 2020 were down by \$240 billion, and restaurant employment dropped 3 million below expected levels. Restaurants support jobs, fuel our local economies, and as gathering places for families and friends, help to build stronger communities.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of swift replenishment of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

CONGRATULATING NASHUA-PLAINFIELD STUDENT CALEB SINNWELL

(Mr. FEENSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Iowa's Nashua-Plainfield student Caleb Sinnwell.

Caleb won first place in this year's National History Day competition for his project on the Ghost Army, a World War II unit of 1,100 men tasked with deceiving German intelligence.

To recognize his outstanding work, Caleb is being awarded the Certificate of Achievement by the U.S. Special Forces Army Unit.

Caleb's thesis states in part: "Through masterful miscommunication, the Ghost Army successfully deceived German troops, which aided Allied advancement to victory in World War II."

He is now asking Congress to pass the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act, a bill to recognize the critically important work of the Ghost Army during World War II.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to support this effort, and I am hoping my colleagues in the Senate will take up this measure very soon.

Keep up the great work, Caleb.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liberty Baptist Church located in Blanchard, Pennsylvania. This weekend, Liberty Baptist Church is celebrating a major milestone, their 150th anniversary.

What started with very humble beginnings at an abandoned German reform church in 1871, what started there has now blossomed into a vibrant congregation and community staple.

In 1872, Brother Runyon, the pastor at the time, described the congregation in a simple sentence: "Wealth we have not, but warm hearts and willing hands we have."

Those words ring true today. With warm hearts and willing hands, Liberty Baptist Church continues to give back to the community, whether it is a bake sale or potlucks to backpack ministries, Christmas caroling, and youth sports, the congregation at Liberty Baptist Church is happy to lend a helping hand.

Over the past 150 years, there were challenging times as well as times of great joy. It is clear, God shines on your members, your church leadership, and your pastors.

Congratulations on this monumental anniversary. May God continue to bless you all for the next 150 years.

RECOGNIZING ANTHE NIJZIEL

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young woman from my district for making University of Iowa and Big Ten sports history.

Recently, University of Iowa field hockey star Anthe Nijziel was awarded both Big Ten Co-Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors after leading the Hawkeyes to an impressive 16-1 regular season.

Though each of these honors are an impressive feat on their own, Anthe has raised the bar, becoming the first Iowa student athlete to win both awards in the same season and the third person in Big Ten history to win the Player of the Year title in more than one season.

I congratulate the entire Iowa field hockey team for a great season, and Head Coach Lisa Cellucci, who was unanimously named Big Ten Coach of the Year after being awarded Co-Coach of the Year last season.

Congratulations to Anthe, Coach Cellucci, and the rest of the Iowa field hockey team, and good luck as you head into the Big Ten tournament.

DEM TAX-AND-SPEND BILL

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)